

they were providing a service, find themselves in a situation where, through no fault of their own, their asset has become a liability. I have visited with scores of these people in the last several years. Imagine how you would feel if you had a going business, were able to support your family, provide for your old age, and all of a sudden, because of the attention being drawn to that business you are totally unable to, number one, borrow money at the local bank; number two, predict with any degree of certainty your own financial future; number three, provide for your own old age because of the enactment of this bill. I don't think the bill is perfect. As I told you several years ago, the first thing I would like to do, I believe it was LB 259, would be to take my name off the bill, because I knew there were inequities in the bill. And Senator Rod Johnson and the committee have tried to correct some of those inequities. Not the first time we're going to do it, and I would suggest, I doubt very much, Senator Johnson, if this will be the last trip that you or the committee will make before this Legislature to try to resolve some of these problems. But that does not mean we should not try. And I want to emphasize again, this fund is going to involve millions upon millions of dollars. I do not believe that if there is a raid upon the fund that it is going to be in the area between 5,000 and 15,000 dollars of access by individuals. I believe that where this Legislature needs to be concerned is when the cost gets above 25,000 and I think that is important, because that is what I was trying to address several days ago, ladies and gentlemen, on the matter of certification of the operator. Senator Withem and I came to an agreement on that area. I hope that we have improved that situation by Senator Withem's amendment. Well, both of us, all of us, I believe, agree that there should be some degree of expertise involved in installation, as Senator Withem pointed out, in order to protect against future contamination. On the other hand, it is also good sense and good business sense to, once you have assigned responsibility, allow that contractor then to contract with individuals for whom he or she will take the responsibility but who do not necessarily need to be certified as being as skillful as is the basic contractor. That, in itself, can save far more money, both immediately and in the future than I think we will save by maintaining this entry level at 15,000. I like very much Senator Warner's idea of basing the ability to pay upon the access to the fund. And I do not think we can probably address that at this time. But I think it ought to be something we take a look at, and I would be willing to address it, if someone wants to bring it up. I do not have an